

**To:** R9-WTR[R9WTR@epa.gov]  
**From:** Moore, Linda  
**Sent:** Thur 4/2/2015 9:30:03 PM  
**Subject:** Water Division Weekly Report for the week of April 3, 2015

## **WEEKLY REPORT**

### **Region 9**

### **Environmental Protection Agency**

**Week of April 3, 2015**

### **Water Division**

#### **Highlight of Past Week**

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#### **Drought Related**

**California Drought:** On 4/1, Governor Brown ordered the State Water Resources Control Board to implement measures that would cut urban water use by 25% compared to 2013 levels. The unprecedented order requires golf courses, cemeteries, school campuses and other large landscapes to reduce their water use and calls on local governments to replace 50 million square feet of lawn with drought-tolerant landscapes. New homes and developments are prohibited from irrigating with potable water unless drip irrigation is used, and watering public street medians is banned. A temporary rebate program will provide incentives for the replacement of appliances with more water efficient models. The order also calls for local water suppliers to implement tiered rate structures that would charge higher rates for greater consumption and will require farmers to provide more water use information to state regulators. (Vendlinski, 2-3469)

**Melting Polar Ice Affecting Weather Worldwide:** A new study in the journal Nature Climate Change shows that the melting of polar ice due to anthropogenic activities is causing currents to slow in the Atlantic Ocean, and could lead to a complete shut-down of the Gulf Stream – a vast, powerful, and warm current that transports more water across the Ocean than all the world's rivers combined. Consequences include sea-level rise in already vulnerable cities on the East Coast (Boston and New York), and extreme weather events worldwide. NOAA's National

Climatic Data Center reported that the winter of December 2014 through February 2015 was the warmest on record for the globe as a whole, but that the eastern U.S. was beset by a cold winter, and *record* cold temperatures were recorded in the middle of the North Atlantic. (Vendlinski, 2-3469)

### **Significant Items for Next Week**

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**Tribal Treatment as State Updates:** We will approve the Dry Creek Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians' amended application to administer the Water Quality Standards and Certification Programs under Sections 303 and 401 of the Clean Water Act. This action will extend the Tribe's 2011 program authorization for 75 acres to an additional 18 acres of trust land. Dry Creek's will be the first amended application to be nationally approved. In addition, we sent the Walker River Band's TAS application package under CWA 303 & 401 to Headquarters (AIEO, OGC, OST) for concurrence. We are hoping to have this application approved before the May 13<sup>th</sup> RTOC in San Francisco. (Angeles, 2-3441)

**CA Trash Policy:** On 4/7 we will provide EPA's oral comments at the SWRCB meeting in support of the adoption of a Statewide Trash Policy. (Martin 2-3403)

**Napa River Restoration:** On 4/9, Jared will speak at an event to highlight the completion of the Rutherford Reach project and announce the kickoff of the Oakville to Oak Knoll Reach project. These projects focus on bank stabilization and will restore and enhance long-term river and floodplain function, improve the quality and resilience of aquatic and terrestrial riparian habitat, and reduce property damage and sediment delivery associated with ongoing bank erosion along the Napa River. EPA has provided over \$5 for Napa River restoration projects. (Yelensky, 2-3021)

### **Press Stories, Significant Policy, Regulatory, or Legal Actions (2-3 weeks out)**

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### **Grant Announcements**

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**Wetlands Grants Transition to 2-year Cycle:** The FY15-16 Wetland Program Development Grants (WPDGs) RFP was posted to Grants.gov on March 31 with a May 15 application deadline. By moving to a two year funding cycle, we estimate approximately \$3M will be available for eligible state, tribal, and local government agencies for building programs that protect, manage, and restore wetlands. We will hold an informational webinar on April 7, and additional information about the RFP and trainings are on our website. (Rosetti, 2-3070)

### **Legislative Engagement**

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**California Oil and Gas UIC Program:** We briefed Jason Gray, lead staff of EPA's Senate Appropriations Committee, in preparation for his 4/2 meeting with House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy. (Diamond) 2-2375)

### **Travel, Training, Public/National Meetings, and Speaking Engagements**

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### **30-60 Day Outlook**

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### **Other Information**

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**Division Director's Travel:** On 4/6, I will be off-site with Kristin and the Water AD's in San Francisco to plan for the Water Division Director transition. Jason Brush will be acting. On 4/7, I will be in Sacramento and on 4/10, I will be on CDO. Kristin Gullatt will be acting.

### **Internal to Region 9**

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**Confidential Information**

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Thank you

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